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Kidsday

Fun, Games & Stuff

What's Cool for Kids

Newsday Photo/Mary Beth Foley

Kidsday staff reporters Jonathan Cacavas and Kevin Giron with Pikachu and Aaron Carter (center).

TOY STORY Last week in Manhattan during Toy Fair, toy companies showed their new toys and games to store buyers and the press. Kidsday staff reporters and Pokémon fans **Jonathan Cacavas** and **Kevin Giron**, both 9, of Brentwood, were invited to a sneak preview of the new Pokémon items at the Hasbro showroom. Backstage, they met the event's guest speaker, singer **Aaron Carter** (younger brother of Nick Carter of the Backstreet Boys). Carter is also a Pokémon fan and the reporters asked him which characters are his favorite and which new item he liked most. He said, "Pikachu and Jigglypuff are my favorite characters, and my favorite new game is **Pokémon Stadium** (Nintendo for Nintendo 64, $70, available in March)." After checking out the new items themselves, the reporters chose these as two of their favorites: **Pokémon Battling Coin Game** (Hasbro, $6, available now), which comes with cool Pokémon holographs on every coin, and **Pokémon Memory** (Hasbro, $7, available now), a great game for ages 3 to 6 where players match pictures.

Pokémon, however, isn't expected to be the only big seller this year. There's a large selection of electronic and voice-activated toys. For example, robot dogs are "in." Several companies have their own version, including Mattel's **Milo the Robot** ($99, available in September), which can ask questions and even learn new words. Another fun item is **Yahoo! Cam** (Tiger Electronics, $60, available in September), a palm-sized digital camera that can take and store up to 12 color photos to e-mail to friends and family.

Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen Dolls

For WWF fans with sweet tooths, **WWF Superstar Tube Toppers** (Candy Planet, $4, available now) are 6-inch candy-filled tubes topped off with molded images of Stone Cold Steve Austin, The Undertaker, The Rock and Kane.

And for doll collectors, famous twins **Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen** are "dolled" up in fashionable likenesses of themselves (Mattel, $5, available in March), **Swimming Champion Barbie** (Mattel, $22, available in July) is dressed for the Olympics, and **Butterfly Fairies** (Madame Alexander, $75, available in May and June) sparkle with iridescent wings.

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Congratulations to Kidsday contest winner **Alison Leigh Schwartz**, *9, of Merrick, who won a basketball autographed by WNBA star Jennifer Gillom.*

What's Cool for Kids: Toy Story

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